

Wilson School
7735 Lane
Detroit, Michigan
48209

American Numismatic Association

Dear Sir:-

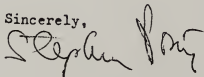
Good Morning. I happened to browse in the library and came on "A Guide Book of United States Coins, 1987." It states on p. 56 that the word "fugio" means "time flies"! This is totally incorrect. "Fugio" means "I flee" or "I run away" referring to the coin or to money itself. "Tempus fugit" means "TIME FLIES"! To flee and to fly are related but the beautiful Fugio Cent has NOTHING to say about "time"!

It is interesting to note, too, that violin makers sometimes wrote in their labels "fecit me"...."made me" as well as some clockmakers, too. "Antonio Stradivarius fecit me" or "Antonio Stradivari made me".

Inanimate objects of art, through the language of personification are able to speak and correctly so.

My interest in this is purely as a Latin scholar and teacher. I have a keen interest in antiquity, horology, Scripture, and art. My experience as a teacher has been thirteen years in the fine arts department, University of Detroit.

Sincerely,



(Rev.) Stephen Fobutsky

Pobutsky

Written in our 96th Year

April 13, 1987

Rev. Stephen Pobutsky
Wilson School
7735 Lane
Detroit, MI 48209

Dear Reverend:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the "fugio" cent as listed in The Guild Book of United States Coins. You are absolutely correct in your comments and as editor of the book I will see that an appropriate change is made in future revisions. Unfortunately it is already too late to change the 1988 edition.

In defense of the book let me explain that numismatic tradition holds that the legend is believed to have originated with Benjamin Franklin, and is intended to be interpreted as "time flies so tend to your business." In his frequent style, Franklin has used the sun dial as a rebus to couple the maxim with the phrase "mind your business."

My intention is to change the book's wording from "The meaning is....," to "the interpretation is...." If you object to this, or have a better solution, please do contact me again so that together we may clarify and correct the oversight.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Bressett
Education Director

KB:kmd

APR 22 1987

Wilson School
7735 Lane
Detroit, Michigan 48209
April 16, 1987

American Numismatic Association
Kenneth Bressett
Education Director

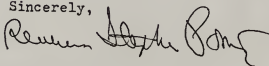
I really cannot agree with the interpretation "time flies so tend to your business."! "Mind your business" has threefold meaning:
1. "watch your store." 2. "Don't interfere with others' affairs or business." 3. Notice to other countries as, "Don't tread on me!"

I would forget alluding to Franklin. "Fugio" means "I flee" or run away. There should be no implied meaning here to connect time and business.

Perhaps the twofold obverse and reverse advice is sufficient and to leave that part alone is sufficient at that. Simply to state, "one side SAYS, "Fugio, I flee", and the other, "mind your business"?

The most obvious reference to Franklin seems "mind your business" which he probably did not, anyway.

Sincerely,



Reverend Stephen Pobutsky



WORLD'S

MEDALS & PAPER MONEY

Written in our 96th Year

April 23, 1987

Rev. Pobutsky
Wilson Middle School
Board of Education
Detroit, MI 48202

Dear Rev. Pobutsky:

Thanks for your prompt response to my letter. I appreciate your comments and freely admit that I cannot debate the issue.

My mentor, author Eric P. Newman has written extensively on the subject of the design of the Fugio cent, and at this point I must call upon his research and counsel. I trust that you will not object to my sending copies of your correspondence to Mr. Newman for his comments.

I will contact you as soon as I have an answer, and hopefully the proper wording to preserve the accuracy of the Red Book.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Bressett
Education Director

KB:kmd

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

May 7, 1987

Rev. Stephen Pobutsky
Wilson School
7735 Lane
Detroit, MI 48209

Dear Rev. Pobutsky:

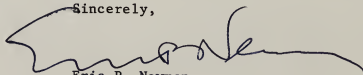
Kenneth Bressett has referred to me your correspondence with him.

The 1787 Fugio coinage design was copied from the paper money of February 17, 1776. Evidence shows that Franklin suggested the legend and device for the paper money. He adapted prior mottoes in this and other items, using both Latin and English sources. The sundial and the sun in the device refer to time and the word Fugio is the sun talking.

Franklin was a self educated genius who had no scholarly Latin training. He wanted instructive mottoes on coins. As you know, he used "Poor Richard" mottoes on the almanacs he prepared and printed, using "Poor Richard" as a philosopher. He did the best he could in creating the rebus you are concerned about. He may not have known how to say Mind Your Business in Latin or else he thought the public would not understand such Latin if he used it.

I recognize your point and you recognize ours. You have caused a revision of the Red Book text. It is reassuring to have people like you interested enough to check up on those of us who research such problems.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

7735 Lane
Detroit, Michigan
48209

May 11, 1987

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society

Good morning. As of this writing, I was elevated by my archbishop May 3, 1987 to archpriest with mitre. (Hence the "Very Rev.")

As a Latin scholar I still cannot agree that you say that the "sun is talking" for FUGIO, "I flee"!

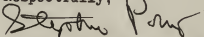
Let me explain. I tried to tell you in my last writing that by the figure of speech personification "MONEY" flees not the sun or time. Why would the sun "talk" or tell this? The COIN says fugio. If YOU are correct, the coin should state "SOL FUGIT" or in your words, "THE SUN flees THEREFORE TIME FLIES"

This has become a tempest in a teapot. The coin simply states what is clearly printed on it, "fugio".

fugio=I flee (not the sun, or time)
sol fugit=the sun flees
tempus fugit=time flies

Interpretations in research is unwise. Literal translations are best. The Latin word, a verb, is in the first person, "I" flee. There is no third personal ending on this verb! Fugit means it flees. Only the word FUGIO is on the coin. Therefore, only "I flee" is valid and correct grammatically and interpretatively. I cannot find "sol fugit", "tempus fugit" but only "fugio" referring to MONEY. Money flies, doesn't it? It flies away.

Respectfully,



Very Rev. Stephen Pobutsky, mitred